

Design Our Native Pollinator Seed Packets!

Earth Conservancy is excited to announce an art contest to design the cover of our upcoming native wildflower pollinator mix seed packets!

We're looking for artwork that tells a story – one that celebrates our region's anthracite mining history, captures the ongoing transformation of the land, and highlights the native plants and pollinators that are helping to bring it back to life. Your design could feature pollinators, wildflowers, reclaimed landscapes, or your creative interpretation of how the area's past connects to our future.

The winning design will be featured on the front of a limited-edition seed packet launching in 2026 – and your work will be shared through our website, social media, and newsletter, and at the many conferences and community events where these packets will be distributed. **Submission deadline is Friday, November 21, 2025, 3:00pm.**

About Earth Conservancy

For over 30 years, Earth Conservancy (EC) has been leading efforts to restore and repurpose 16,500 acres of former coal company-owned land in the Wyoming Valley of northeastern Pennsylvania. When the Blue Coal Corporation went bankrupt in the 1970s, thousands of acres were left abandoned – stripped bare by decades of mining and seen by many as irreparably damaged. EC saw them differently: as an opportunity for transformation and growth. Since then, we've reclaimed more than 2,000 acres, restored damaged streams, and preserved over 9,300 acres for trails, parks, wildlife habitat, and recreation. Alongside these efforts, EC has developed comprehensive land-use plans, built acid mine drainage treatment systems, run a large-scale composting facility, and led environmental education initiatives that connect people with the land and its history. These projects trace back to EC's overarching plan, seeking a more livable community now, while clearing the way for positive, progressive change for future generations. To explore some of our work, visit www.earthconservancy.org.

Prizes & Recognition

First Place: \$250 + winning artwork featured on the limited-edition seed packet

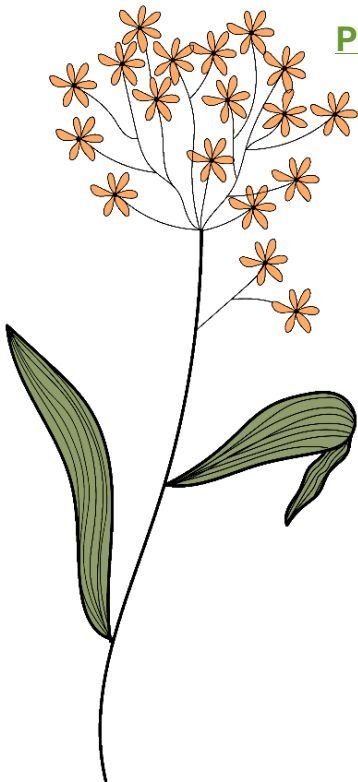
Second Place: \$100

Third Place: \$50

All three winning artists will also be recognized on Earth Conservancy's website, newsletter, and social media, and the first-place design will be displayed at select community events and conferences.

Entry Criteria

- **Who Can Enter:** Open to all ages – students, hobbyists, and professionals welcome!
- **Number of Entries:** Limit one per person.
- **Artwork Type:** Any 2D medium (digital media, painting, drawing, collage, printmaking, photography, etc). No AI-generated or derivative works.
- **Full Color:** The final packet will be printed in full color (CMYK).
- **Dimensions:** 6.25" x 4.25" (portrait orientation)
- **Theme:** Reflect the region's mining heritage, ecological restoration, and pollinator-friendly native plants.



Entry Criteria (continued)

- **Originality:** All artwork must be original and free of copyright restrictions or other intellectual property rights.
- **Appropriateness:** Artwork should be respectful and suitable for a general audience. Submissions must not include offensive, defamatory, or inappropriate content, or violate anyone's rights.
- **Signatures:** Do **not** include your name and/or signature in the actual artwork.

Submission Guidelines

1. **Entry Form & Artist's Release:** Complete the required entry form and sign the artist's release waiver. By submitting, artists grant Earth Conservancy perpetual, royalty-free rights to reproduce the winning design for seed packet production, promotional materials, and educational purposes.
2. **Download the Template:** Use the 6.25" x 4.25" portrait template (on artist's agreement) as your guide. All designs must stay within the dimensions provided.
3. **Prepare Your Artwork:** Digital files must be high resolution (300 dpi minimum) and submitted as .pdf, .jpg or .png. Name digital files LastName_FirstName_SeedPacket.png (e.g., Smith_Jane_SeedPacket). Physical submissions are also welcome.
4. **Submit Your Entry:** Email digital entries to e.hughes@earthconservancy.org. Physical entries can be mailed to (or dropped-off at) Earth Conservancy, ATTN: Elizabeth Hughes, 101 South Main Street, Ashley, PA 18706.
Deadline for submissions is November 21, 2025, 3:00pm. Physical submissions will not be returned.

Seed Mix Information

Our custom seed blend will include native wildflowers that support bees, butterflies, and other pollinators – like black-eyed Susan, butterfly milkweed, coreopsis, spiderwort, purple coneflower, and more. A full list of species is available upon request.

Judging Process

Round 1: Submissions will be reviewed blindly by Earth Conservancy staff, with scoring based on theme relevance, artistic quality/originality, and visual impact at a small scale.

Round 2: The top 3 designs will move on to the Earth Conservancy Board of Directors for final selection. The winning artist will be notified by email and publicly recognized.

Questions?

Contact Dr. Elizabeth W. Hughes via email (e.hughes@earthconservancy.org) or by phone (570.823.3445).

